

NEWS – CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANALYSIS: REPUBLICAN BUDGET WOULD DECIMATE MEDICARE WITH \$20 TRILLION CUTS

WASHINGTON – Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI), ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee and Pete Stark (D-CA), ranking member on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, sent the following letter to their Democratic colleagues today highlighting [an analysis](#) of how the Republican Budget would demolish Medicare.

Dear Colleague:

It was reported last night that Republicans had begun to back away from their commitment to end Medicare as put forth in Chairman Paul Ryan's Republican Budget. We want to disabuse you of that notion – and so does the Republican Party. Majority Leader Eric Cantor's office, in fact, quickly clarified their position just before midnight: "To be clear, the Republican position is the Ryan budget, period."

In reality, Republicans are committed to their Budget, which decimates Medicare, ending its promise of guaranteed benefits and turning it into a voucher program that fails to keep pace with rising health costs. According to CBO, the Republican Budget would double annual health care costs for seniors and individuals with disabilities, from roughly \$6,200 to more than \$12,500.

We would like to share analysis completed by the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Democratic staff, which shows exactly how devastating the Republican Budget would be for America's senior citizens and people with disabilities. This analysis finds that the Republican Budget would gut federal health care spending for senior citizens and people with disabilities by up to \$20 trillion by 2050.

In addition to these ruinous cuts, the Subcommittee's analysis points out that the Republican

plan to end Medicare as we know it would actually speed up the rate of overall health care spending. That is the antithesis of Republicans' claims that their budget would control costs, or that they're the arbiters of fiscal responsibility.

What's more, the American people don't support the Republican proposal to dismantle Medicare. A May 4th Quinnipiac University poll found that 60 percent of Americans want Medicare to "remain as it is today, as a defined set of benefits for seniors." That includes 57 percent of Independents, 75 percent of Democrats and 46 percent of Republicans.

Make no mistake; the Republicans are committed to undoing Medicare. We encourage you to use the attached Ways and Means fact sheet – which details just how far the Republicans intend to go in their destruction of Medicare – to help clarify misinformation about the Republican Budget and their party's plans for Medicare.

For the complete Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Democratic staff analysis, [please see this](#) .

Sincerely,

/s
Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means

/s
Pete Stark
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means